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but none were actually employed in the Revenue department, except a few as Provertikars on Rs. 10 or 12. He also quoted figures to show the general position, in the service, of the Christians, the best educated class in the State, and their inadequate representation as compared with other communities.

Mr. P. V. Daniel (Member, South Travancore Native Christian Association, Nagercoil) said that, through lack of State patronage, a large number of their educated young men were obliged to leave the country for bread in distant countries amidst uncongenial surroundings, and that the few who had entered the State service had not received due encouragement. The general disability due to the connection of the Revenue with the Devaswom department should be removed. Till that was done, special preference might be given to their claims in other departments. Since they were debarred from becoming Tahsildar-Magistrates, Government might be pleased to appoint a larger number to sole Magistrates' places, their salary being brought on a par with that of Tahsildars.

Dewan's reply.—Christians cannot be employed in the Land Revenue department as long as the management of Hindu Religious institutions vests in the officers of that department. The complete separation of the Devaswom from the Revenue department will involve extra expenditure and the question of such separation is wholly one of finance. Till it is possible to throw open the Revenue department to Christians, it will continue to be the policy of Government to employ them in other departments to an extent which will, to some extent, compensate them for their exclusion from the Land Revenue department.

67. *Elavas and the public service.*

Mr. M. Govindan (Member, S. N. D. P. Yogam, Trivandrum) requested that all the deparments of the public service should be thrown open to qualified Elavas.

Mr. R. Velu Tharakan (Member, Elava Samajam, Chirayinkil) and *Mr. K. Narayana Panicker* (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) spoke in support of the request.

Dewan's reply.—*Theoretically* the position of Elavas is exactly the same as that of Christians with regard to appointments in the public service, *i. e.*, all appointments are open to them except those in the Land Revenue department which, on account of the combination of Revenue and Devaswom duties in the same officer, is closed to Elavas, as it is closed to Christians. Government are,

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however, aware that *in practice* the admission of Elavas into the public service has been slow, partly on account of the fact that till very recently the community was very backward in point of education, and partly also on account of the sentimental objections of other communities, which it has not always been possible for heads of departments wholly to ignore. The Elava gentlemen who have now spoken on behalf of their community may, however, rest assured that the claims of this important section of His Highness' subjects will have the sympathetic consideration of Government.

68. *Exemption of Mahomedans from attendance in courts on Fridays.*

Mr. Ghulamytheen Pillai of Tiruvankode (Member, Nominated) said that Friday was a day of special prayer for the Mahomedans, which could only be offered in the Jumma Musjid and that the non-observance of that day was very irreligious and sinful. He therefore requested that Mahomedans might be excused from attendance in Courts and Cutcherries on Fridays.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju of Quilon (Member, Nominated) supported the request.

Dewan's reply.—The question will be considered.

69. *Economical and Industrial survey.*

Mr. R. Velu Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) spoke on the advantages of an economical and industrial survey and urged its introduction in all the Divisions. He also requested that loans might be advanced for agricultural purposes.

Dewan's reply.—In June last, Government ordered an Agricultural and Industrial Survey to be taken up tentatively in one Division. Padmanabhapuram was selected for the purpose and the officers chosen to conduct the enquiry were the Superintendent of the Agricultural Demonstration Farm at Trivandrum and the then Acting Educational Secretary. No report has yet been received from these officers. They are being asked what progress, if any, they have made. With regard to the question of agricultural loans, an enquiry will be made as to the working of the Regulation which provides for the grant of such loans.

70. *Chatrom accommodation.*

Mr. P. V. Daniel (Member, South Travancore Native Christian Association, Nagercoil) referred to the inconvenience in travelling experienced by Christians, Mahomedans and others for want of chatroms, and requested that, either separate kitchen accommodation be provided in the existing chatroms or new chatroms built in the most important towns.

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